

Commonwealth of Kentucky



DISTRICT OFFICE
2534 KEARNEY COURT
LAKESIDE PARK, KENTUCKY 40117
859-331-1684
859-331-1238 FAX
Roedn@aol.com E-MAIL

204 CAPITOL ANNEX
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
502-564-3120
502-564-0456 FAX
MESSAGE LINE 800-372-7181
richard.roeding@lrc.state.ky.us

RICHARD L. "DICK" ROEDING, R.Ph.
PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THE SENATE

January 22, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

It goes without saying that the settlement agreement between the U.S. Government and Microsoft comes at a critical time when our economy and nation most need reconciliation.

The proposed settlement requires significant changes in the way Microsoft develops, licenses and markets its software. This settlement is fair. It allows Microsoft to continue innovating in all areas of software development.

When word of the possible settlement in the Microsoft case broke, the markets surged. In spite of gloomy economic reports, the news was viewed by investors as a sign that our nation's critically important high-tech industry could move forward without the continuing shadow of government interference. The fact is that news of an impending settlement lifted the share price of technology companies across the spectrum, including Microsoft's rivals. AOL, Time Warner, Sun, Oracle, IBM – they all saw their stocks jump. Most attorneys are not economists, and the economics of settlement were made clear by the markets. Public sentiment, from consumers to businesses to investors, favors settlement.

I congratulate you on developing a strong but fair settlement and support your efforts to create a settlement that is in our nation's best interest. Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard L. Roeding".

Richard L. "Dick" Roeding, R.Ph.
Kentucky Senate President Pro Tem